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Dear Sirs,

With the enclosed Communication of June 24, 2004 the European Patent Office has notified us of the result of the European Search.

The attached copy of the "European Search Report" specifies the references and contains in standardized abbreviations information about how the references and the specific parts therein correlate to the individual claims of the above mentioned application.

A copy of each reference cited in the Search Report is enclosed.

In reply to this Search Report you may now voluntarily amend the description, claims and drawings. In this case please let us have your respective instructions.

We will notify you of the date on which the publication of the European Search Report is mentioned in the European Patent Bulletin. This date starts the 6-month period for requesting the substantial examination of this application. If the request was already made the EPO will inquire whether this application is to proceed further.

Very truly yours,

Dr. E. Wenning

Patent Attorney

Encl.:

Communication/Search Report Cited references Debit note